THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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TO ANNEX OR NOT TO ANNEX?

TWO QUESTIONS have been posed in Council discussion of city limits extension. They are separate questions, and should not be confused.

The first is a question of the moment: Shall the City take in new territory while other sections are yet without essential services?

This question has arisen from the petitions of two owners of fringe property who are asking annexation by the City. The City has the authority to annex such property under a 1947 act of the General Assembly. In another two or three years the answer might be easy, for by then (we hope) the big hunk of territory absorbed in 1950 will be adequately served by streets, water, sewers and other facilities. At the moment, however, it is difficult to justify further annexation until the older areas get their services.

In answering this question, the Council should not overlook the second, and longer range, issue! Is it not better to extend city limits and services gradually and evenly as the fringe areas build up than wait ten years and then bite off more than can be digested easily?

Such a course has several advantages. It enables the City Government to plan public improvements more intelligently. It prevents the mushrooming of slum areas around the city's borders which will remain to haunt us in later years. It also enables the City to begin collecting taxes from the new area immediately, rather than waiting several years after it has become an integral part of the community even though it lies beyond the borders.

Perhaps the approval of these two petitions, and others which will doubtless be presented in the next two or three years, will pose a double burden on the City Government by adding to the already heavy demand for essential services.

If that double burden can be carried until the City is over the hump, it should be much easier from then on. If the City Manager can detail a way to extend services to these new areas at the same time we are filling existing gaps within the present boundaries, it would appear the better part of wisdom for the Council to go along with him.

PIECEMEAL FARM LEGISLATION

THERE are several objectionable features about the farm bill sent to President Truman for his signature this week.

The main criticism to be made of it is that once again the Congress is trying to pass farm laws in a piecemeal fashion. This is not an all-inclusive bill. It reduces acreage for potatoes, and increases acreage for cotton and peanuts, both of which are already in surplus production. It is a stop-gap measure and no effort has been made to fit it into the broader picture.

Secondly, it combines one good feature—reduction of potato acreage—with two dubious ones. Admittedly there are inequities in the cotton acreage allotment, and perhaps the peanut acreage allocations are too small. But it is doubtful that this is the best way to correct them.

In the third place, debate on the bill degenerated into a sectional battle with Southerners and mid-Westerners generally lined up against Eastern potato growers. The farm problem is national, not sectional, and it can hardly be worked out by sectional warfare.

What the Congress needs to do is to back up and start all over again on farm legislation. The pile of government-purchased surpluses is steadily increasing, at a terrific cost to the taxpayer, and no letup is in sight. Congressmen are more concerned about the farm vote in this Fall's elections than they are about the national welfare.

We are following the same path we tried in 1920. It led to disaster then when export demand dried up and other nations began producing surpluses, and it will lead to disaster again. Sooner or later public protests will force the dumping of surpluses or the reduction of price supports. When that happens, the bottom will fall out from under farm prices.

The present high supports were set during World War II to stimulate production. There is no need now for such high production, and the sooner we get support prices and production geared to a reasonable level for all crops, not merely potatoes, cotton, and peanuts, the closer we'll be to lasting agricultural prosperity.

COMPOUNDING A HAZARD

IT IS unfortunate that a city police officer was injured while chasing a "hot rod" along Duncan Ave. the other night, but it is equally regrettable that he chose the manner of chasing the automobile that he used.

After arresting a youth for "hot rod" driving, the officer commandeered the young man's speedster and ordered the youngster at the wheel to give chase to another striped-down, souped-up automobile. Almost immediately the commandeered auto overturned, injuring the officer. The youthful driver fortunately escaped injury.

The "hot rod" drivers, and there are many of them, who make Charlotte's night-time streets hazardous for motorists and pedestrians alike, ought to be apprehended. And they should be dealt with severely.

But the nature of the violation on Duncan Ave. did not require the futile cops-and-robber-like gesture made by the officer. If a bank had been robbed, or a murder committed, it might have made sense to commandeer the nearest vehicle, shout "follow that car!" in the best movie and detective story manner, and speed away. In this case, it merely meant that two cars were careening along a street instead of one, doubling the hazard to the occupants and to any other unsuspecting motorist who might have been along.

Chief Littlejohn should bear down on the "hot rod" drivers. He should also make sure that no other member of his force makes the same mistake that this officer made.

From The Wall Street Journal

THE DECISIVE ISSUE

ON THIS PAGE of its March 15 issue this newspaper asserted that the Republican Party could not hope to return to power nationally unless it took its stand on principle. We added that the only other method of achieving party victory, that of buying votes en bloc, had become the property of the Democrats by long adverse possession.

Then we said that a principle vital to the long-run welfare of all the people was staring the Republicans in the face, the same principle that won them the election of 1896, namely, Sound Money. A number of our readers throughout the country took the trouble to write us their approval.

There can be no sound money nor any honest government in continued deficit financing without compelling necessity. That practice falsifies every promise a government makes to its creditors big and little. It makes a pretence of social security. It progressively destroys the welfare of the people of a self-styled welfare state.

It will destroy the Republican Party, too, if the party either stupidly or through cowardice acquiesces in "tax and borrow and spend and elect." Not to attack that practice is tacitly to acquiesce in it, to put the voter on notice that the present cuts will adopt it if they become the party.

A sound currency under an honest government, of course, means a balanced budget and a beginning on reduction of the national debt. The presently unbalanced budget cannot be balanced by imposing higher tax rates or more of craftily devised imposts. The tax burden even now is largely responsible for rising unemployment. Our economic history throughout the 1930s shows that the government can make jobs on public works only by knocking out jobs in private industry. The government cannot provide even a limited area with genuinely cheap electric power; it can only sell power for less than its cost and tax the general public for the difference.

To the fetish of full employment and government-provided prosperity for everybody our present government-in-office sacrifices the integrity of its monetary system and its good faith with its creditors. Deliberately or unwittingly, it is piling higher a national debt which it will pay off, if at all, in depreciated dollars.

That will happen unless your government radically reforms its fiscal policies. Is there a more crucial political issue on the national level?

A machine has been invented which will blow bubbles ten feet in diameter. We see no future for it. The product will be too small for outdoor advertising and too big for bubble dancers.—*Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News.*

The Midwest is having sales, blizzards, sleet, cold, prairie fires and dust storms. Even the most exacting Florida headline writer ought to be able to find something to suit him.—*Fort Myers (Fla) News-Press.*

"When you tighten your belt, it's a recession. When you have no belt to tighten, it's a depression. When you have no pants for your belt to hold up, it's a panic."—*Mullins (S. C.) Enterprise.*

There is still a possibility that when the actual proposition of war comes up between the United States and Russia, one will be afraid and the other scared.—*Sherman (Tex.) Democrat.*

Pome In Which A Reason Is Suggested Why So Many Marriages Go On The Rocks:

Cupid
Is Stupid—*Atlanta (Ga.) Journal.*

'I Think I'll Investigate Hollywood's Morals'

GOP's Communism Hunt May Prove Damaging To The Party

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

SENATOR VANDENBERG'S letter appealing for a renewal of the bipartisan policy was a reminder of what has been missing throughout this session of Congress. In the absence of the leadership supplied in the past by the Senator from Michigan, the bipartisan foreign policy has been virtually abandoned.

That is the fact, and there is little reason to believe that the letter will restore it. In this are the elements of both personal and public tragedy.

As leader of his party on foreign policy in the Congress, Vandenberg exercised a restraining influence on the die-hard Senators who wanted to restore the old isolationism. He did this through his constant day-to-day relationships on and off the floor of the Senate. Part of his influence was in his prestige, his seniority.

Part of it was in his skill as a moderator and compromiser. The extremists condemned him for his willingness to compromise. But he understood better than anyone else how to exercise his leadership in both its positive and its negative aspects.

VANDENBERG HELPLESS

During most of this session Vandenberg's serious illness has kept him away from the Senate. His wife also is very ill. The prospect of his return to active leadership in the immediate future is at best uncertain.

This would seem to insure that the dominant voice on both foreign and domestic policy will be sounded by Senators Taft, Wherry, and Bridges. Taft has publicly declared that he encouraged Sen. McCarthy to continue, in the conviction that if McCarthy missed one target he might hit another. Wherry and Bridges are openly leading the "Get Acheson" drive.

The opposition to this triumvirate within their party has been timid and tentative. Small wonder, too! They control the party machinery, and they have shown themselves to be ruthless. Wherry and Bridges, taking their cue from McCarthy, do not bother to argue issues. They merely harangue and denounce.

The venerable Henry L. Stimson, a Republican elder statesman, pointed out the danger of McCarthy's tactics in blunt, strong language. But this will not give the Taft-Wherry-Bridges combine a moment's pause.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

What an opportunity exists today for an active Republican leader to try to carry on what Vandenberg so successfully initiated! Such a leader — let's say Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts or Harold Stassen — could express his true convictions about a bipartisan foreign policy and the imminent peril in quarreling over the direction of American aims beyond America's shores.

I believe the response within the Republican Party to such leadership would be impressive and immediate. And such a leader would have little to lose. His silence and his timidity at this point will not gain him the favor of the men who intend to keep the controls of the party. There is little doubt as to what the response would be among independent voters. In the quaint phrase of the socialism of another era, the timid and the tentative in the GOP who really believe in a bipartisan foreign policy have nothing to lose but their chains.

The function of such a leader, and those who would at once rally around him, would be twofold. He would demand an end of irresponsibility in his own party. And he would call on the Truman Administration for a constructive and active approach to try to resolve the great unresolved issues between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The latter function is fully as important as the first. The outline of a program looking to eventual negotiation with the Russians which can be the only basis for peace, simply is not visible.

It is possible, of course, that the Taft-Wherry-Bridges "Get Acheson" tactic may win an election, or help to win it. It might even win in '52. But this time such a victory wouldn't be worth very many years of peace. That is the world tragedy transcending the fate of any individual.

Sales Of Breeching Straps, Breastbands, Cruppers Rising

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

POSSIBLY I AM the wistful old-fashioned type, but I am about fed up on chronicles of Miss Georgeous Gussie Moran's underwear or pants, and I am equally gored on the commercial overstress on female harnessings. When I was much younger I got a quiet, clandestine lift out of sneaking peeks at the lingerie sections of the Sears & Roebuck catalogue, but we have become so surfeited today with intimate details of what used to be feminine secrets that I fear for the fate of true romance.

When a lady wore beneath her calico used to be the lady's own business, and all true gentlemen assumed that she was perfect of form and figure. If she remodeled a little deficiency here with a subterfuge, or strapped down a rebellious curve there, that was a secret between her and the dressing mirror. One did not mention a lady's pants in public. One did not even speculate as to whether she wore same, although legend had it that all nice girls did.

This reticence was rather nice, in that it allowed all hands to delude themselves that there weren't any ladies whose form was less than divine, or who needed an engineering project to protect and enhance and limit and control their more salient outcroppings. Now one begins to speculate, after a steady diet of girdles and panties and bras and pantie-girdles in the journals, as to whether there are any ladies left who are not in need of an expensive shoring-up process — if there are any women whose charm is theirs alone, rather than a testament to the whalebone and elastic industries.

We have seen the degeneration of the female chest to where it has become little more than costume jewelry, to be discussed as freely as a pair of rhinestone earrings. We have seen the falsie, or ersatz abundance, mushroom with shameless frequency until today a girl is thought guilty of deception until an accident proves her innocent.

I have before me a dispatch from Hollywood, that fabulous land, which announces under a two-column headline that the girls are going in for "outside undies" now. This is to say that the girls — didn't offer any names or addresses — will soon be wearing their harnessing outside instead of underneath, hopefully camouflaged with buttons and bows to represent roses and knots and things. I believe it, I believe anything!

Judging from the advertisements I also believe that there is no female creature from the age of fourteen up who does not go forth to face the day more fully accoutered than any Saxon knight. Today's boudoir, which used to be filled with frilly knick-knacks and fluffy frivolities, now looks more like a tack-room at a livery stable.

They got horse blinkers to cover the eyes so a female can't see nights, and chin straps to confine her chin while she snores. They got straps to hold you up and straps to push you out and straps to squeeze you in. They got panels and straps and arrangements made out of wire and in general more than enough buckles and zippers to outfit a team of mules.

I have no idea how they get in and out of these contraptions, but from the ads, I would imagine it takes two about servants an hour to insert one dame into her one-time unmentionables, and at least one small derrick and a blowtorch to get her out again.

If you recall the old joke about the bride who took off her false hair and took out her false teeth and unbuckled her false leg and took out her false eye, you might pause and reflect that no woman advances her cause in the romance department by advertising all the tricks she uses to appear as she really isn't. Were I a girl I would downplay public attention to my private aids to construction, in fear that my lovelorn cavalier might change his mind at the last-minute and elope with a horse.

Peoples Platform

Uncertain About Senate Race

OXFORD

Editors, THE NEWS:

AS YET I have not made up my mind as to whom I shall vote for in the race for the short Senate term. If my feelings did not clash so violently with my intellect, I would certainly vote for Graham. I can't forget the happy years that I spent with him as a student at the University. Yet his political outlook and approach do not coincide with mine even a little bit.

I have a copy of the report of the Truman Committee on Civil Rights and I am quite familiar with the minority position on certain portions of the report. I have before me what you said as to his position on segregation. Not yet have I seen anywhere or heard from any of his backers any contention that Frank Graham is in sympathy with the doctrine of segregation. He does not approve of its elimination by any Federal sanction, but that it should come as a matter of education and religion. In short, he does not object to the medicine, however distasteful or sickening it may be (elimination of segregation), but merely to its prescription by a Washington doctor and the filling of the same by a District of Columbia druggist.

Now, I am opposed to the commingling of the races in the schools and churches. I am opposed to teaching that segregation should be eliminated by either the schools or the churches. I am opposed to the disturbing of the present set-up in this state whereby the whites are employed in the textile mills of the state and the Negroes in the tobacco factories. To me this is a most equitable arrangement.

Furthermore, I am of the definite opinion that Frank Graham is far too liberal with the taxpayers' money. We definitely need beyond all else the establishment of a sound financial basis for our national economy. Deficit financing means national bankruptcy, and that means the end of this republic and its institutions. I see no forever any positive action on the part of Graham in such an undertaking. I simply don't think he can function in any such desirable role.

—JOHN W. HESTER.

More On Truckers Depot

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I READ with much interest the letter from Mr. William C. McIntire on March 27 regarding the question of the City of Charlotte taking over the Charlotte Quartermaster Depot.

The question of turning it into a centralized truckers' depot is a very good idea provided it is handled in the proper manner. Charlotte is very much in need of a truckers' depot that would enable truckers to enter and feel that they have a depot, they could turn shipments over to for delivery, that they are unable to deliver due to the fact that they reached the city after closing hours; or perhaps they have a large unit and it would not pay them to make a number of small deliveries.

I feel that the opinion of Mr. McIntire to restrict the capacity of delivering trucks to five-tons is lack of proper information on his part. Many solid truck loads come into this city for delivery. Also many truck loads are picked up daily. Any one can see what an inconvenience that could be to both receiving and shipping interests of this city.

The letter states that the trucks are blocking the traffic to a great extent. I wonder why he failed to mention the traffic blocking caused by the railroads. Any check on this would certainly prove that railroads cause 80 per cent more traffic blocking than the trucking industry.

With reference to the trucks tearing up the city streets, I wonder if he realizes that the trucking industry pays over 75 per cent of maintenance cost of state, county and local highways.

The truckers' depot is a very good idea and I am in favor of it, but there is no use to have it and put the truckers out of business at the same time. What good would it be then?

—W. D. WILKINSON JR.

Peace Talk Safe Now

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.

Editors, THE NEWS:

WHETHER we get peace or not, thank God the holy business of peace-mongering is safer now than only a few months ago. It hasn't been long since the wicked Reactionaries could frighten the daylights out of would-be peace mongers, of the upper level, by yelling, "Appeaser! you rascal."

—B. H. EIDSON.

Why So Much Crime?

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I SEE in The Readers Digest that the Charlotte area endures more crime than any other territory per capita in the United States. This exists in spite of the fact that there are more active church members for its population than any other city of the U. S. Can it be because our Police Department is spending too much time smelling around parking meters, gossiping in the street with friends, loafing in cafes or perhaps frisking people who look like they might have had a drink too much?

Worse still is the obvious lack of discipline in our police force. Look around any time you'll find the men in uniform, unshaven sometimes, with an unpressed uniform, conversing with friends on the street or in cafes.

If the heads in our police force could be cleaned out and replaced by competent people who know something about policing, I am quite sure we taxpayers would grant more respect to them and we would see less crime in our midst.

—BERNARD A. STERK.

Asks Vote Explanation

WILMINGTON

Editors, THE NEWS:

Just received the news that Senator Hoey voted for the so-called Kerr bill this afternoon. I don't know what your editorial reaction will be, but I sincerely hope it will be in agreement with my reaction as a member of the electorate of this state. True, the bill will not greatly affect this area, but I think the Senator's action is indicative of an attitude which might very well carry over into fields of legislation which will vitally affect the people of North Carolina.

And it is for that reason I condemn his action this afternoon. I think the N. C. voters have a right to an explanation of this action and its effect on the consumers of natural gas states.

—C. T. JORDAN JR.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Truman Criticizes McCarthy's Talk

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT TRUMAN really poured it on mud-slinging Sen. Joe McCarthy in a long-distance phone conference from Key West with Congressional leaders in Washington this week.

"What's wrong with that fellow, anyway?" exploded Truman. "Doesn't he know that he is doing irreparable harm to his Government by all this loose talk?"

The President commented that McCarthy's unsupported charges that the State Dept. is "loaded with pro-Communists" already had seriously undermined the morale, and perhaps the efficiency, of this vital branch of the Government.

"Think of the great numbers of loyal personnel in the department who have given their whole lives to their Government," he said, "and think what McCarthy has done to the spirit of these people. It wouldn't surprise me if many of them were thinking of resigning. They probably figure that they'll be next on McCarthy's list and they don't want to have their families dragged through such an ordeal."

The effects of McCarthy's character assassination and reckless rantings were even more damaging on U. S. prestige abroad, Truman emphasized, particularly in Western Europe, where we must keep our heads high in the cold war with Russia.

McCarthy has played right into the hands of Russian propagandists who are doing everything to sell their satellites and other Western European countries the idea that the United States is divided against itself, the President declared.

He added that McCarthy had made the job of our foreign diplomats "doubly difficult", because they are afraid to be seen talking to anyone who might be accused of pro-Communist leanings in France, Italy and other countries, even in the course of their duties.

As a result, the President said, our embassies and legations in some countries have become "virtually isolated" and our foreign-service personnel in these places seriously demoralized.

Republican In Charge

THINGS most people don't know about alleged "Commies" in government— Chairman of the State Dept.'s loyalty review board charged with weeding out Communists is a Republican—Gen. Conrad Snow of New Hampshire. He was appointed on the recommendation of GOP Sen. Styles Bridges, a backstage brain-truster for Senator McCarthy's attacks . . . Chairman of the top loyalty review board is also a Republican, Seth Richardson, who served under Hoover. . . . Most of the lawyers under him are also Republican. Neither Truman nor anyone else can overrule them—only the courts. . . .

Actually, Acheson has fired more State Dept. employees than any other Secretary of State. . . . McCarthy's attacks have been almost as vitriolic as Moscow's. Here is the latest diatribe against Acheson: "His Fascist-like diplomacy . . . A truly incorrigible liar . . . swindler . . . a hired lackey of the instigators of war who spent his scanty brains to beat the truth, freedom and peace. . . . Acheson's true masters are the banks and concerns who dream of looting the entire globe." . . . Acheson's family is worried over his terrific strain. They are wondering whether he has not become a liability, that for the good of U. S. foreign policy he should resign. . . . Writes another Secretary of State, Henry L. Stimson, in the Hoover Cabinet, about Senator McCarthy: "The man who seeks to gain political advantage from personal attack on a Secretary of State is a man who seeks political advantage from damage to his country. . . . This is no time to let the noisy antics of a few upset the steady purposes of our country or distract our leaders from their proper tasks."

Harassed over flying saucers, the Air Force now refers queries to the first chapter of the Prophet Ezekiel who saw a living wheel in the heavens. Airmen are not arguing with Ezekiel and cast no doubt upon what he saw. But they do cast doubt on modern prophets. They say they have tracked down every flying-saucer report, and there ain't no such animal. . . . The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, slightly gleeful at Presidential sciatickness, remind him: "Mr. President, modern streamliners, manned by competent union crews, run daily between Washington and Florida. And no little brown pills are required." . . . But the trainmen overlook one thing. The Navy paid the bill. Had he gone to Florida by train, he would have had to pay the bill. . . . Two great Bible fans are fighting for the Republican Senatorial nomination in New Hampshire. Sen. Charles Tobey and Challenger Wes Powell are doing their best to outquote each other. . . . Bradley Nash has written a book on Herbert Hoover's government reforms—"A Hook In Leviathan."

Good Men Leaving

ONE OF the best men in Government resigned the other day—Foreign Service Vootheesis, Undersecretary of the Army, a Republican. Truman could have kept him, but instead asking him to be Secretary of the Army, a post to be vacant when Gordon Gray becomes president of North Carolina U. But despite the urge for a bipartisan policy, Truman hasn't been appointing many Republicans lately. . . . However, Frank Pace, now director of the budget, who will replace Gray, also is a good man. . . . Vootheesis initiated the important job of winning democracy in Japan and Germany; brought groups of editors, students, government leaders from those countries to see how the USA operates. The ideas he planted will live after him. . . . Secretary of Interior Oscar Chapman moved slowly in picking his new chief of Indian affairs, a very important post. Dillon Myer, the man he picked, is a top public servant, recommended by some room members of the Senate, Warren Austin, now ambassador to the United Nations, scrupulously observed Rule 12 that a Senator must not vote for a nominee who has withdrawn from voting for the tale bill in 1944 because he had a private interest. . . . Correction: Carrol French, mentioned in a recent column as being with Blackstone Oil of New Jersey, is no longer with that concern. French was the gent who helped left business leaders how to propagandize with labor through pay slips.

Coal Crisis Again—More than 50,000 coal miners may get the ax permanently late this year because of oil and gas competition. Scores of small mines will also go out of business. . . . For the next six months, all the coal mines will be working at top production to fill back orders, but most of the big coal companies are feverishly trying to sign long-term, low-price contracts with railroads and other big customers in order to stand off gas and oil competition in the next few years. . . . Little companies, however, cannot afford this, and are headed for the cleaners—unless the Government subsidizes the very sick coal industry.